

S. Yoshiura et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/052,163
Page 9 of 11

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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 20, 25, and 26 are allowed.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 14, lines 5-12).

As amended, independent claims 1 and 14 recite a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus and an electronic apparatus, respectively, in which verification of identification information of a portable terminal is carried out in the electronic apparatus.

According to the Applicants' claimed invention, an electronic apparatus detects a nearby portable terminal, and thus can verify in the electronic apparatus identification information of the portable terminal (see, e.g., FIG. 4 of application). It is therefore possible to provide apparatus management information to a portable terminal, without the intervention of a user. Moreover, even an electronic apparatus which is not in a network environment can collect apparatus management information, thereby facilitating centralized control of apparatuses (see, e.g., specification at page 27, lines 10-21).

Claims 1-19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,950,148 to Nakagawa et al. ("Nakagawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakagawa does not teach or suggest a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus or an electronic apparatus in which verification of identification information of a portable terminal is carried out in the electronic apparatus.

S. Yoshiura et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/052,163
Page 10 of 11

In Nakagawa, a user inputs an ID code to a portable terminal device 30, and a copying machine 1 transmits the ID code to a host computer 40 along with identification data and data indicating that the portable terminal device 30 is connected to the copying machine 1 (see column 14, lines 13-19). Then, the host computer 40 reads the identification data and transmits "item data" including maintenance data to the copying machine 1, the copying machine 1 outputting the item data to the portable terminal device 30 (see column 11, lines 41-49; and column 13, lines 1-18).

Referring to FIG. 3 of Nakagawa, the portable terminal device 30 is connected to the copying machine 1, and the host computer 40 is connected to the copying machine 1 via a modem.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Nakagawa of any device, system, or method having a communication controller provided in an electronic apparatus (e.g., the copying machine 1 shown in FIG. 3).

In Nakagawa, to verify identification data of the portable terminal device 30, the data must be transmitted from the copying machine 1 to the host computer 40, which provides maintenance data regarding the copying machine 1. In other words, verification does not occur in the electronic apparatus itself, but in a separate host computer.

On page 3 of the Office Action of 08/30/2006, column 13, lines 3-6 and column 14, lines 10-19 of Nakagawa were cited as allegedly corresponding to the step of verifying identification information of a portable terminal. However, for at least the reasons discussed above, Nakagawa does not teach or suggest that an electronic apparatus verifies the identification information of a portable device. Instead, in Nakagawa, to verify identification data of the portable terminal device 30, the data must be transmitted from the copying machine 1 to the host computer 40.

S. Yoshiura et al.
U.S. Serial No. 10/052,163
Page 11 of 11

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Nakagawa reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14, and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Nakagawa.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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